(ख) जी, हा ।

(ग) और (घ) ब्यौरे अनुपत्र में दिये गये हैं ।

Delay in Delivering of Telegrams

3949. alHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMU NICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the delays and cases of non-delivery of telegrams;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for shoddy and inefficient telegraphic service;

(c) whether delays continue despite advent and use of telex and fax machines to send telegrams;

(d) whether Government propose to institute better monitoring of telegraphic functions of the post offi ce;

(e) whether there is any proposal to return telegram charges when the delivery of messages exceeds 24 hours; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICA TIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Manual transit telegraph operations and incorrect address sometimes adversely affect the efficiency of telegraph service. However, modernisation programme of the telegraph service has been taken up to eliminate transit operations by using Store and Forward Telegraph Systems.

(c) No, Sir. Improvement is reflected in performance as under;

Year	Percentage of telegrams delivered with 12 daylight hours as measured in Telegraph Offices;
1990-91	84 per cent
1991-92	88 per cent
April 92 to Dec. '92	91 per cent

(d) For better monitoring of tele graphic functions of the post office, the Government has already institu ted holding of Co-ordination meetings at various levels between Depart ment of Posts and Deptt, of Telecom.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Govern ment has recently decided to return the telegram charges for delivery of express messages exceeding 18 hours and ordinary messages exceeding 36 hours.

Service phones in Delhi and Bombay

3950. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of service phones presently functioning in Delhi and Bombay free of cost;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of free service phones are substantially increasing every year;

(c) whether increasing number of seryice phones is detrimental to the interests of the phone subscribers;

(d) if so, what steps being taken to rationalise and restrict service phones;

(e) what is the criteria of sanctioning service phones in MTNL in cities of Bombay and Delhi; and

(f) whether the system of sanction ing of a service phones is guided by any settled policy, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) The required information is being collected.

(e) and (i) Service connections are sanctioned by competent authorities purely in the interest of service. Service telephones are also provided as a part of an agreement with the Service Unions.

Lowering of charges for money orders

3951. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleaed to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of poorer and lower income groups who have to pay increasingly higher money order charges;

(b) whether better technology, telex and fax have not actually reduced the costs of transmitting and delivering money orders; and

(c) steps being taken to pass on the benefits of technology and lower costs to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) M.O. commission is charged at the rate of Re. one for every sum of Rs. 20/- or fraction thereof. There has been no change in the rate after June 1990. Having regard to the fact that Money Orders are paid at the door of the payee even in the remote villages, together with the written communication of the remitter and acknowledgement of the payee furnished to the remitter, it cannot be said that the charges are high even for the lower income groups.

(b) and (c) At present, Money Orders are transmitted as any other postal article and no technology is utilised. While transmission of Money Orders by technologically advanced means may result in reduction of operational costs of the Department, the scheme for transmission of money orders in certain areas of the country through satellite which has been approved by Government is still in the process of implementation. It in too early at this stage to consider its implecatiojis in terms of commission charged on Money Orders.

Misuse of STD facility by Telephone Exchange Staff

3952. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing misuse of STD facility, leading to abnormally high bill for subscribers;

(b) whether it is a fact that a sub stantial percentage of such misuse occurs at the exchange level;

(c) the steps being taken to prevent such misuse at exchange level; and

(d) instances of disciplinary action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Instances of misuse of STD facility have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Investigation into the comp laints of misuse of STD facility rev eal that misuse can be within the ex change or at the subscribers' premises or outside the Exchange in the exter nal plant.

(c) Surprise inspections by the vig ilance and supervisory staff have been intensified.

Subscribers are being encouraged to use Dynamic STD barring facility in Electronic Exchanges.

(d) Officials found indulging in the misuse of the STD facility in Hyde-